



# countdown

June 9, 2009

Vol. 14, No. 43

## Countdown for STS-127 launch starts tomorrow

## NASA TV to air prelaunch briefings for LRO/LCROSS



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

Launch countdown milestones on Wednesday for Saturday's STS-127 launch include: Perform the call to stations (8:30 a.m.), begin countdown at the T-43-hour mark (9 a.m.), begin final vehicle and facility closeouts for launch, check out backup flight systems, review flight software stored in mass memory units and display systems, load backup flight system software into Endeavour's general purpose computers, activate and test navigational systems (7 p.m.), and complete preparations to load power reactant storage and distribution system (8 p.m.).

Thursday's milestones are: Enter first built-in hold at T-27 hours for duration of four hours (1 a.m.), complete flight deck preliminary inspections (1 a.m.), clear launch pad of all nonessential personnel, perform test of the vehicle's pyrotechnic initiator controllers.

◆ **ELV Update:** NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, and Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, or LCROSS, spacecraft are set to launch together to the moon aboard an Atlas V rocket on June 17. Three launch opportunities from CCAFS are at 3:51 p.m., 4:01 p.m. and 4:11 p.m.

NASA Television's coverage of the launch will begin at 1 p.m. If the launch is postponed 24 hours, the launch times on June 18 are 5:12 p.m., 5:22 p.m. and 5:32 p.m.

A prelaunch news conference at 1 p.m. June 15 will be held at KSC's NASA News Center and broadcast live on

NASA TV. Participants in the briefing will be:

- Todd May, program manager, Lunar Precursor Robotic Program at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.
- Chuck Dovale, NASA launch director at KSC.
- Vernon Thorp, program manager of NASA Missions with United Launch Alliance.
- Craig Tooley, LRO project manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.
- Daniel Andrews, LCROSS project manager at NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Calif.
- Clay Flinn, Atlas V launch weather officer with the 45th Weather Squadron at CCAFS.

An LRO and LCROSS mission science briefing will be held at 1 p.m. June 16, at the NASA News Center and broadcast live on NASA TV. Participants in the briefing will be:

- Mike Wargo, chief lunar scientist, Exploration Science Mission Directorate.
- Rich Vondrak, Goddard's project scientist for LRO.
- Tony Colaprete, Ames' project scientist for LCROSS.

### ■ Staying Current on Lessons

**Learned** — To stay current on new lessons learned from across the agency, you can set up a profile in the NASA Engineering Network and let this intelligent system do the searching for you. The

subscription feature in the NEN will send you an e-mail notification whenever new lessons are added to the system that fit your area of interest based on the profile you create. To sign up, follow these steps:

1. Go to <http://nen.nasa.gov>.
2. Click on "Register" in the upper right corner.
3. Fill in the form and click "Register."
4. After you receive the Self Registration: Confirmation online, record your username and password for future login.
5. Click on "My Subscriptions" from the blue shaded menu on the left side of the page.
6. Click on "Topics" to expand topics.
7. Check the desired topics.
8. Click "Subscribe."

■ **NASA Science** — An international panel of experts has issued a new prediction for the solar cycle that takes into account the surprisingly deep solar minimum of 2008-09. To find out when they think solar maximum will return, go to: [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may\\_noaaprediction.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may_noaaprediction.htm).

■ **Reminder** — The O&C blood drive will be held tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can schedule your appointment at [www.floridabloodcenters.org](http://www.floridabloodcenters.org) using Sponsor Code 36986 (not a zip code).

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